

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /090 W

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R 161650Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4907

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0919

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ, RH, PFOR, MIL

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN RAID ON ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP: POTPOURRI

REF: (A) MAPUTO 917 (NOTAL) (B) MAPUTO 915

1. GPRM STATEMENT: FOLLOWING NEARLY A FULL WEEK OF OFFICIAL SILENCE ON THE RHODESIAN RAID ON THE NHAZONIA ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP, THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE ISSUED A STATEMENT AUGUST 15 ACCUSING THE RHODESIAN MILITARY OF "INDISCRIMANATELY" MURDERING HUNDREDS OF DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS. THE STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOZAMBIQUE SERVED AS REFUGE FOR

ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND ASSERTED THAT MOZAMBIQUE WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST ZIMBABWEANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME DESPITE RHODESIAN RAIDS.

2. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MACHEL: DURING BRIEF AIRPORT ENCOUNTER BEFORE PRESIDENT MACHEL DEPARTED FOR COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING AUGUST 15, RUSSIAN
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AMBASSADOR DISCLOSED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HIS MEETING WITH

MACHEL ON SATURDAY FOLLOWED ALONG SAME LINE AS MACHEL'S COVERSATION WITH AMERICAN AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS. ELABORATING, RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IN ORDER TO STOP FUTURE INCURSIONS, MOZAMBIQUE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BUILD UP ITS MILITARY DEFENSES. HE ALSO SAID THAT MACHEL WILL MAKE A MAJOR APPEAL AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT FOR THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST RHODESIA. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERED HIS OPINION THAT SMITH WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO "INTERNATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM" IN ORDER TO ELICIT MORE OPEN SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT.

3. UNHCR VIEWS: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR EVENING AUGUST 14, UNHCR REP HUGO IDOYAGO ASSERTED THAT NHAZONIA WAS NOT BEING USED AS A MILITARY TRAINING CAMP OR STAGING AREA TO LAUNCH ATTACKS INTO RHODESIA. IDOYAGO SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY VISITED CAMP SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND THAT IT WAS A CIVILIAN REFUGEE CENTER WHICH UNHCR WAS SUPPORTING. SERGIO DE MELO, DEPUTY UNHCR REP INFORMED EMBOFF THAT OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL (BEING KEPT BY MOZAMBICANS) HAD RISEN TO OVER ONE THOUSAND, MOSTLY WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDER MEN. UNHCR OFFICIALS ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT NHAZONIA WEDNESDAY MORNING.

4. LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE: DURING PAST THREE DAYS, LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO NHAZONIA RAID, REplete WITH NUMEROUS GRUESOME AND TRAGIC PICTURES OF DECAPITATED CADAVERS, BURNED BODIES AND MASS BURIAL SITES. ACCORDING NOTICIAS, EYEWITNESSES TESTIFY THAT RHODESIANS WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE CAMP EASILY BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF BLACK PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING SOLDIERS AND OF MAURICE NHAIT, FORMER ZAPU DEFECTOR WHO IS NOW WORKING WITH RHODESIANS. NOTICIAS ALSO REPORTS THAT THE ATTACK CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO PORTUGUESE ENGINEERS WORKING ON THE CABORA BASSA PROJECT TWO EUROPEAN TOPOGRAPHERS AND TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS. ALL WERE KILLED WHILE TRAVELLING IN THEIR CARS ON THE ROAD FROM CHIMOIO (FORMERLY VILA PEREIRA) TO TETE. THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF TETE PROVINCE REPORTEDLY SURVIVED AN ATTACK ON HIS VEHICLE.

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5. CONSEQUENCES OF RAID ON CABORA BASSA: THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PUNGUE RIVER BRIDGE, WHICH THE PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED, WILL LEAD TO SLOW-DOWN ON THE WORK ON CABORA BASSA DAM. APPARENTLY SINCE THE CLOSURE OF THE RHODESIAN BORDER ON MARCH 3, ALL THE GENERATORS, TURBINES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT BEING SENT TO CABORA BASSA HAD TO TRAVERSE THIS BRIDGE. AT LEAST TWO SPANS OF THE BRIDGE WERE KNOCKED OUT DURING THE RHODESIAN

ATTACK.

6. VOA COMMENTARY: EMBOFFS WHO HAVE BEEN LISTEING
TO VOA REPORTS ON RAID NOTE THE VOA REFERRED TO RAIDS AS
ATTACKS ON "ZIMOEBWEAN GUERRILLA BASE ." THIS IS SALISBURGY'
CONTENTION. IN LIGHT OF GPRM'S AND UNHCR REP'S CONTENTION
(PARA 1 AND 3) WE RECOMMEND THAT VOA MAKE NOTE OF THESE
DIFFERENT CLAIMS.
DE PREE

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